

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
INOUE et al. )  
Application Number: To be Assigned )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
For: DISK ARRAY DEVICE AND MAINTENANCE )  
METHOD FOR DISK ARRAY DEVICE )  
Atty Docket No. WILL.0005 )

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY  
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

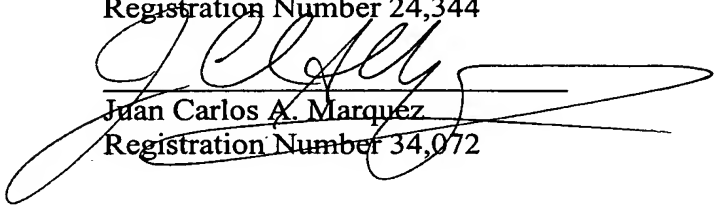
Sir:

In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of December 15, 2003, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese Patent Application 2003-416230.

A certified copy of Japanese Patent Application 2003-416230 will be submitted upon receipt from Applicant. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher  
Registration Number 24,344

  
Juan Carlos A. Marquez  
Registration Number 34,072

**REED SMITH LLP**  
3110 Fairview Park Drive  
Suite 1400  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042  
(703) 641-4200  
February 2, 2004